

**Town of Blacksburg EMS/P2 Program
DEQ E2 Annual Status Report
July 1, 2003**

A. Program Status:

The Town of Blacksburg's Environmental Management System Team (EMST) has been focusing its efforts on accomplishing the objectives and targets for five specific impact areas. Workgroups were established for each impact area and their progress is summarized below. The EMST has also been developing a training program to communicate the key elements of this program to Town employees. This training program involves general awareness presentations to employee groups and significant impact training to specific groups of employees directly involved in pollution prevention activities. We have established an EMS/P2 presence on the Town's intranet site as an additional communication tool for employees and as a management tool for the EMST.

The EMST has been struggling with the legal requirements and auditing provisions of our EMS program which has delayed the finalization of the EMS manual, the implementation of the employee general awareness training program, and the application for DEQ E3 certification. On June 20, 2003 the EMST met with an environmental management system consultant (Lee Faulkner) to identify the environmental legal requirements, propose an in-house audit process, and set up an independent third party audit of the EMS program in 2004. The results of Mr. Faulkner's work should be completed in July 2003 and will enable the Town of Blacksburg to fully implement the EMS program this summer.

B. FY 2002-03 Workgroup Accomplishments:

1. **Hazardous Chemicals** - The objective of this focus area is to reduce the use of hazardous chemicals where applicable and ensure that all hazardous chemicals are stored, handled, and disposed of properly.

A hazardous chemical inventory has been established and MSDS binders have been prepared and distributed to all buildings and work areas of the Town. A policy of registering and controlling all hazardous chemicals that the Town of Blacksburg uses has been established together with a procurement protocol. Training in this phase for maintaining the chemical inventory, MSDS sheets and their use has started.

The Town has developed a biohazard policy and distributed that policy in book form to all work areas along with emergency biohazard response kits. Training on this policy is in progress.

The Property Maintenance Division of the Public Works department has developed a carpet-recycling program for Town facilities utilizing low chemical out gassing carpet and adhesives.

A new position, Occupational Safety Coordinator, has been established in the Public Works department to serve as a professional safety person to control, monitor and develop new policies to bring these efforts into full compliance with EPA, DEQ and OSHA recommended policies.

2. **Stormwater** - The objective of this focus area is to reduce the volume and increase the quality of stormwater runoff from existing and future Town of Blacksburg owned properties.

A survey form has been created to evaluate all Town property and facilities for stormwater management. The survey has been completed in all major Town facilities and staff is working on completing the survey for property owned by the Town, such as parks and utility facilities. Subdivision ordinance reviews include stormwater management and staff is encouraging low-impact development through these reviews. Additionally, staff has initiated a subdivision ordinance change for detention of smaller storms in addition to the normally required 2 and 10-year storms. This should reduce the quantity of stormwater runoff from new construction. The Town obtained a stormwater discharge permit from the DEQ for the NPDES Phase II stormwater program. Through this program, the Town has created a plan for increasing the quality of stormwater runoff from Town projects and properties.

3. **Sanitary Sewer Overflows** - The objective of this focus area is to identify, prioritize, and reduce “at risk” locations for potential surcharge SSO’s in the Town of Blacksburg.

A new sanitary sewer model has been purchased and staff has begun conversion of the data from the old model into the new model. This process has allowed the Town staff to more accurately model sewer flows in the Town sanitary sewer system. Areas of “high risk” for overflows were identified using the old sewer model, and a plan was formulated to install flow monitors to assess the severity of the capacity problem. One flow monitor was purchased and installed into a critical sewer capacity location in Town. Data from the monitor has been used in conjunction with a new rainfall gauge to determine overflow frequencies and inflow and infiltration amounts during various rainstorms. Engineering staff is continuing to purchase flow monitors and implement the “high risk”-monitoring monitoring plan for overflow areas along with Public Works staff. Additionally, Town public works staff has created a process for monitoring, recording, and reporting sanitary sewer overflows. This information is being logged into the GIS system for tracking trends and frequencies of overflows. Baseline data will be sought in other areas of Town as flow monitors are installed. Additionally, Town

staff is pursuing an inflow and infiltration abatement program with residents. Education and enforcement will be the focus next period.

4. **Use of Energy** - The objective of this focus area is to reduce energy consumption by replacing inefficient equipment and implementing energy efficient practices.

The Town of Blacksburg entered into an \$844,073 Energy Performance Contract with Johnson Controls, Inc. in May 2003 to provide for office lighting, HVAC controls, water conservation, pool dehumidification, and traffic signal lighting upgrades. Equipment installations will begin in July 2003. Once completed, these equipment upgrades will reduce the Town of Blacksburg's municipal energy consumption and hence will provide a measure of pollution prevention. The annual energy and material savings resulting from these equipment upgrades are required to meet or exceed the annual equipment lease and contract service costs of this program. Town staff will be monitoring monthly utility bills to verify electric, gas, and water use reductions resulting from these equipment upgrades.

The Town of Blacksburg joined the U.S. Department of Energy's Rebuild America program in July 2002. We will be participating in their annual mid-Atlantic Peer Exchange to further our knowledge of energy conservation measures so that this information can be passed on to Town employees and the general public.

5. **Solid Waste** - The objective of this focus area is to reduce the amount of solid waste taken to the landfill from government facilities by requiring government employees to recycle and by implementing source reduction methods.

The Town has increased the visibility of its recycling program in town facilities. A Recycling Assistants Committee was developed as a tool to educate all employees on recycling and reuse issues. The team consists of members of each department. These employees are knowledgeable regarding the recycling program and are the primary point of contact for their departments regarding recycling issues. Additionally, the Solid Waste Coordinator met with each department at least once during staff meetings to discuss recycling issues.

Centralized recycling areas were established in each building utilizing standardized containers. Educational material is displayed in these locations. Staff began recycling rechargeable batteries in 2003. Staff is encouraged to produce brochures and documents that are recyclable. Employees are also encouraged to reduce the consumption of natural resources. As an example, employees are encouraged to send documents electronically where possible and to utilize both sides of the paper when documents must be printed.

The Town began a regional electronics workgroup. The purpose of the committee is to document the current procedures for purchasing and disposing of electronics in each locality. In addition, the group will research the feasibility of providing an electronics-recycling event in Montgomery County.

C. FY 2003-04 Program Goals:

1. Finalize the Town of Blacksburg EMS Manual.
2. Implement the Town of Blacksburg EMS/P2 employee-training program.
3. Reevaluate significant environmental aspects/impacts and establish objectives for FY 2003/04.
4. Conduct a third party independent EMS Program Audit in July 2004.
5. Apply for Virginia Department of Environmental Quality E3 Certification.